Jeff Murawski

Field Trip Assignment

Mr. Hakim

Bracken Fern



Bracken ferns are a part of a genus comprising of large coarse ferns. They are vascular ferns that have alternating generations. Brackens are in the family known as the Dennstaedtiaceae.

Sphagnum Moss



Sphagnum moss is part of a moss genus that contains about 151-350 species, commonly called peat moss. Sphagnum moss usually grows on top of a peat bog. Sphagnum moss grows mostly in the Northern Hemisphere. The moss contains a main stem, with tightly arranged clusters of branch fascicles.

Shagbark Hickory



The Shagbark Hickory is very common in the eastern United States and southeast Canada. It’s a large deciduous tree that grows up to 27 meters tall. They also live up to 200 years old. They got the name Shagbark because they literally have shaggy bark.

Dogbane



Dogbane plants grow all throughout North America. They usually grow up to 2 meters tall. It is a poisonous plant and the name means “poisonous to dogs”. All part of the plants are poisonous and can cause cardiac arrest if digested.

Sweet Fern



Sweet Ferns are sweet-smelling plants with many branches. They can grow up to potentially 3 feet. They contain alternate leaves, three to six inches long. They are found in open sterile woodlands.

Oak



An Oak is a tree or shrub that is in the Quercus genus. It is a native of the Northern Hemisphere. Oaks have spirally arranged leaves with a lobed margin. Some have serrated leaves or entire leaves with a smooth margin.

Rhododendron



Rhododendrons are part of the Ericaceae family. It is a genus that contains over 1000 species. The leaves are spirally arranged and the leaf sizes can range from 1-2 centimeters. They can be either deciduous or evergreen.

Mountain Laurel



Mountain Laurels are a flowering plants that are a part of the Ericaceae family. They are native to the eastern United States. Mountain Laurels are the state flowers of Connecticut and Pennsylvania. It is an evergreen tree that grows up to 3-9 meters.

**Frost Pockets-** Frost Pockets are a solid deposition of water vapor from saturated air. It is formed when surfaces are cooled to below the dew point of the adjacent air.

Pin Cushion Moss



Pin Cushion Moss is commonly seen during the fall and winter. They have very small leaves and stems clustered closely together. It is a very soft, dense mound of light, white colored moss. It is mostly found on decaying wood.

**Beavers**

* Beavers are primarily nocturnal
* They are a large, semi-aquatic rodent
* They are known for building dams, canals, and lodges
* They build their dams in deep, still water for protection
* Their population has declined due to hunting for their fur

Red-Tailed Hawk



The Red-Tailed Hawk is a bird of prey. It is part of three species known as the “chickenhawks”. They breed throughout most of North America, from western Alaska to Northern Canada, to as far south as Panama. There are fourteen recognized subspecies that all have slightly different features.

**Ecotone-** Ecotone is the transition area between two adjacent but different plant communities, such as a forest and grassland. It can be wide, local, or regional.

**Lichens-**

* Composite organisms made up of symbiotic association of a fungus
* Lichens occur in the extreme environments of Earth

-Arctic Tundra

-Hot Deserts

-Rocky Coasts

**Oligotrophic Habitat-** Environments that offer very low levels of nutrients. They are contrasted with Copiotrophs, which prefer nutritionally rich environments. Oligotrophs are are characterized by slow growth, low rates of metabolism, and generally low population.

**Ideas behind Deer Exclosures-**

* A deer exclosure is an area of forest enclosed by a tall fence. Deer can’t get into this area, so the deer exclosure vegetation can be compared over time with the vegetation outside the exclosure to measure the effect of deer on forest vegetation.

**Colors of Carotenoids and Anthrocyanins**

* **Carotenoids-** Organic pigments that are naturally occurring in the chloroplasts and chromoplasts of plants and some other photosynthetic organisms, such as algae, and some types of fungus and bacteria.
* **Anthrocyanins-** Pigments that are known for the red, purple, and blue colors. They have been a subject of botanists because their roles as pollination attractants and phytoprotective.